

**SFA's 2030 STRATEGY**

will be launched in March. Building on the experience gained over the last 5 years, the report details our plans to scale up our efforts and expand into Inner Mongolia, China.

Due to the coronavirus the cancelled **China Regional Meeting** is now a webinar on **March 12th**. Please register [here](#) to be sent a log-in.

Save the date

For the next SFA Members Meeting. We're arranging a **Cashmere Sector Sustainability Forum** in London on **April 21st** and we'll be in touch soon.

WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome three new members to SFA.

**China Union**

康賽妮集團
CONSINEE GROUP



**Ningbo Zhongxin Wool
Textile Group**

IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS ON THE CASHMERE SECTOR

With the busiest time in the cashmere calendar approaching we're yet to see the full impact of the coronavirus on the cashmere industry. Many of the mills in China are not yet back to work and as the Chinese are only venturing out when necessary, they're not shopping for cashmere.

As Mongolia has shut its borders, Chinese companies cannot send their quality assurance people and traders to buy the fibre so there are buying through local agents and traders in Mongolia and sending through money as pre-payment. A lot of the transactions are based on trust. There are concerns that it might prove difficult to get hold of fibre if the disease spreads.

As many of the Chinese companies have access to dehairing companies in Mongolia we should see more product being dehaired locally. The risk is of course is that after an initial spike in price at the start of the season before the fibre finds its way to the market, the price of cashmere will go down this year as there could be a surplus in the market.

SFA CLEAN FIBRE PROCESSING

The washing and dehairing plants in Mongolia that registered their interest in our new Clean Fibre Processing Code of Practice are currently undergoing self-assessment. The companies have already completed self-assessment training and, once they've carried this out, they will then undergo independent assessment before becoming SFA-Certified.

Fibre processors that are SFA-Certified will be able to demonstrate sustainable fibre processing and ethical business practices, including the efficient use of water and energy, reduction of harmful chemicals and ensuring respectful, secure working environments.



SFA'S PROCESSOR / HERDER EXCHANGE EVENT

Despite the coronavirus, our exchange event for linking SFA herders with fibre processors was still able to go ahead. Due to the restrictions on group gatherings, our team had to come up with a Plan B. Traders from Mongolian processing plants were welcomed in pairs into the SFA office by Charles Hubbard, SFA Chair. After hearing about our work and the new Clean Fibre Processing Code of Practice, phone calls were then made in turn to leaders of each of the herder organisations that are registered with the SFA.

This event represents the first official exchange event to increase linkages between SFA herders and the cashmere market. Our intention is only to facilitate this first level of negotiation - any future negotiations will be done between the traders and herders directly.

Feedback from both traders and herders was very positive. The traders gained an understanding of what SFA herder organisations could provide in terms of raw fibre and what we mean by SFA-Certified. Herders were also pleased with this initial consultation. As they often only deal with middlemen, our exchange event offered unique insights into the fibre preferences of processors and also highlighted the benefit of being registered with the SFA.



HERDING LIFE

This week's photo is from Nyamkhand, a herder from the Nomgonoin Gol Herder Organization, Bayan-Uul Soum in the Dornod province.



"This goat had her baby out on the pasture, so we put the kid in a thick bag to keep it warm – We're very excited to have a baby goat born on the Lunar New Year!"

Nyamkhand

WEATHER WATCH

The Lunar new year is widely seen as marking the end of the harshest weather in Mongolia. This winter has treated the herders well and recently there has been some more snow which is welcomed as a water source. There is still a risk however of the weather taking a turn for the worst in the northern regions.

While in the Gobi, temperatures are reaching highs of 5 degrees, in the Dzavhan region it's still as low as -16 degrees.

MEET THE HERDERS SERIES

Here's another short video from the Meet the Herder series which we'll be releasing this month. This video features Khandsuren - an incredible woman, who shares her genuine affection for her goats.

"Khanda epitomises how Mongolian herders care for their livestock. If I hadn't have filmed with her I would have said she was scripted!"

Fiona Jones, Filmmaker

<https://youtu.be/sWJcEjxTvrU>



OF INTEREST....

- Alex Begg's CapraCare programme and their work with the SFA <https://www.lindengruppen.com/news/capracare>
- Blockchain technology and sustainable fashion <https://supplycompass.com/blog/spotlight/launch-event-recap/>